

The Dual المثنى

In addition to distinguishing between humans and non-human objects, the Ancient Arabs decided that it was important to distinguish between one, **two**, and three or more. Most Semitic languages have this dual feature.

Dual NOUNS الأسماء

The dual ending for nouns ends in **يْن** (pronounced 'ain' as in 'pain') in both dialect and in MSA - just add an **يْن** to the end of the word (in MSA you sometimes see the ending as **ان** if the noun is the subject of the sentence).

Here is an example from our text:

مقطعة إلى **نصفين**

Cut into two halves

Note that words that have a ة ta'marbuta such as علبة turn the ة into a **ت** in the dual (**علبتين** not **علبةين** or **علبين**)

أبشري **علبتين** من جبة كرافت تشيدر

Shred two containers of kraft cheese

Here are some more examples using some vocabulary from our video:

Two pieces

حبة ← حبتين

Two minutes

دقيقة ← دقيقتين

Two onions

بصل ← بصليين